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sum not to exceed ($3.00) three dollars, to meet the expenses. Members will be entitled to a share in the distribution of specimens made in the early part of the year following that in which their subscriptions and parcels were sent.

2. The annual list of desiderata will be made up by combining those of all the members of the club, and then be printed and sent to every member. Each individual list must not exceed a certain number of species annually, for if unlimited the printed list would be too voluminous for practical use with our very extensive flora, at any rate for a number of years. The determination of the annual number of desiderata will require further consideration.

3. Some member will have to act as distributor each year, either voluntarily, or, if no one is found willing to act without recompense, provision will have to be made for employing a distributor at a small salary. The plan as here outlined would not necessitate very much work, and it certainly would be of an interesting nature. The committee will be pleased to receive communications relative to this.[1]

4 It will be necessary to adopt some one check-list as the official one of the club, and this must either be used in sending lists of desiderata by marking the species desired, or if a reliable numbered check list can be procured, the list of numbers might be sent. This is also a question for further consideration. It has been the experience of the British Club that manuscript lists of desiderata should not be received.

5. Each species should be represented by a number of specimens to be determined when the probable number of members shall be ascertained. It is not necessary to emphasize at this time the necessity for complete and satisfactory specimens being furnished, with appropriate labels.

The British Club in 1886 had a membership of fifty-eight, and has been in successful operation for a number of years. It would seem certain that at least an equal number of American botanists would consider it advantageous to join a similar organization.

Suggestions regarding the matter here presented and applications for membership should be sent to the chairman of the committee, Dr. George Vasey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

THE COMMITTEE.

Phacelia heterosperma.—Annual, a foot or less high, with erect branches, glandular and viscid, the foliage and inflorescence with sparse short and viscid hairs: leaves few on short petioles, ovate, an inch long, with a few coarse angular teeth, or the basal ones nearly entire: flowers in strict spiciform racemes, at length elongated and loose: corolla companulate, 3-4 lines high, little exceeding the spatulate sepals, light purple with yellowish base: the unequal filaments and short cleft style included: capsule oblong, 3 lines high, exceeded by the sepals; seeds numerous (40-50), light brown, deeply pitted and variously angled or rounded. Of the *Eutoca* group.—In wet sand, banks of Rock creek, borders of the Mojave desert, Los Angeles Co., Calif., June, 1887.—SAM'L B. PARISH, *San Bernardino, Calif.*

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[1] Dr. Vasey writes that Commissioner Colman has consented, if it be deemed advisable, that the Botanical Division of the Department of Agriculture take charge of the exchanges and distribution without expense to the members of the club. N. L. B.

EDITORIAL.

THE DEATH of Dr. Asa Gray removes from American botany one who can have no successor. His work may be continued, but his commanding position can not be attained by any other. The circumstances which gave him such a grasp upon men and materials will not be repeated. The greatest name in American botany is the unanimous verdict of his countrymen. But his most enduring monument is not this unanimous acknowledgment of his greatness as a botanist, but the loving remembrance of the kindly, helpful man, which is cherished in the hearts of more than one generation of botanists, none of whom he ever turned away unanswered, all of whom he considered as friends that must be helped. Two years ago the GAZETTE published, with his sanction and help, a biographical sketch; and it but remains now for us to pay our tribute of love and respect to one who has been taken away, full of years and honor, but still in the midst of his work. The loss seems an irreparable one, but his name will always be a guide and incentive to every American botanist.

THE ARTICLE by Dr. Minot in a recent number of *Science* regarding the unsuitableness of American microscopes for the use of biologists has provoked comment from nearly every American journal dealing wholly or in part with biology, and the verdict appears to be that some of the writer's points were well taken, although the statements may have been stronger than the facts will warrant. The rapid increase in number and size of biological laboratories brings about an increasing demand for a low-priced instrument adapted to certain kinds of work. This demand is met by German manufacturers, but is to a certain extent ignored by American manufacturers. The result is that probably half of the instruments now bought for biological purposes come from abroad, and the number would doubtless be greater but for the trouble and delay of importing. The subject is one that has often been discussed, but the present agitation is more general than at any previous time, and promises to be more fruitful, as it has aroused the makers to a show of defense. The American manufacturer takes pride in the handsome instrument which he turns out, and the only influence that is likely to be strong enough to